

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /031 W

----- 115720

R 210935Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5909

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJECT: TWA PLANS OPEN NEW YORK-JIDDA AND NEW YORK-BAHRAIN FLIGHTS

1. KENNETH BRIGGS, DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS FOR TWA, VISITED EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 20, 1976, AND OUTLINED PLANS AND PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PROJECTED NEW YORK-JIDDA AND NEW YORK-BAHRAIN FLIGHTS.

2. BRIGGS STATED THAT TWA HAS AUTHORITY FROM CAB TO OPEN THESE ROUTES. THE NEW YORK-JIDDA AND NEW YORK-BAHRAIN RUNS ARE PLANNED TO STOP IN PARIS WHERE PASSENGERS SCHEDULED FOR ONWARD DESTINATIONS IN ARABIA WILL SWITCH FROM BOEING 747'S TO 707'S. TRANSATLANTIC SEGMENTS OF THE FLIGHTS WILL USE 747'S BOTH WAYS. THE NEXT IMMEDIATE STOP ON BOTH FLIGHTS IS PLANNED FOR CAIRO.

3. BRIGGS STATED THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE DISAPPROVED THE PROPOSED FLIGHTS FOR ONWARD CARRIAGE TO JIDDA AND BAHRAIN BUT HAVE STATED THAT THEY WOULD BE OPEN TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. TWA INTENDS TO PURSUE MATTER WITH EGYPTIANS. ALL INDICATIONS NOW LEAD TWA TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED FLIGHTS WILL BE PROFITABLE BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY

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COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN THE AREA AND THE GROWING SIZE OF

U.S. AND OTHER EXPATRIATES IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. A FACTOR IN TWA'S FAVOR, REVEALED BY BRIGGS, IS THAT HE HAS HEARD ABDULLAH MAHDI, DIRECTOR OF SAUDI CIVIL AVIATION, HAS WRITTEN TO THE CAB FOR THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SAUDI ROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES. (ACCORDING TO BRIGGS, SAUDI AIRLINE OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.) NEVERTHELESS, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, SINCE NO U.S. FLAG CARRIER NOW OPERATES TO SAUDI ARABIA, BRIGGS BELIEVES THAT HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH SAUDI FOR PERMISSION TO INAUGURATE THE JIDDA FLIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA06353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760356-0738
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760938/aaaabggg.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWA PLANS OPEN NEW YORK-JIDDA AND NEW YORK-BAHRAIN FLIGHTS
TAGS: EAIR, SA, US, TWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006